GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:542
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2002
STEPS TO IMPLEMENT SAFETY AND QUALITY SERVICES TO PUBLIC
VUKKALA RAJESWARAMMA

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Federation of Indian Railwaymen (NFIR) has demanded to improve safety and quality services to the travelling public;

(b) if so, the details of their demands; and

(c) the Government`s reaction thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Federation of Indian Railwaymen (NFIR) held the 23rd National Convention at Visakhapatnam from 19th to 21st August, 2002, wherein, inter-alia, they traced out various factors like inadequate infrastructural facilities, poor quality of equipment and materials, poor maintenance and unsatisfactory working conditions of staff belonging to safety categories etc. and suggested corrective steps needed to remove these shortcomings, so that there is an improvement in safety and quality of services to the travelling public.

(c) Safety of passengers travelling on Indian Railways has been receiving closest possible attention of the Government.With a view to ensure safety of the passengers, Indian Railways have undertaken a special programme of rehabilitation and rebuilding of bridges out of the Special Railway Safety Fund. Towards further ensuring adequate safety measures, ultrasonic testing of critical components like axles is being done by Railways at regular intervals during maintenance. As regards quality of services, the 150th year of Railway Services has been dedicated to the Rail travellers and declared as Passenger Amenities Year. Sixteen inter-city train services called as Jan Shatabdi Express Trains are programmed for introduction with specially designed second class chair car accommodation. In addition, introduction of new trains and increase in frequency of existing services are also planned for the benefit of Railway passengers.